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(54) Improvements in or relating to pillows

(57) A method of preserving a hairstyle during sleep comprises the steps of providing a pillowcase with at least one surface thereof provided with a material of a low coefficient of friction, and laundering said pillowcase with an anti-static agent.

A pillowcase has at least one surface thereof provided with a material of low coefficient of friction.

A sheet of material having a low coefficient of friction includes means to secure releasably the sheet to a pillow.

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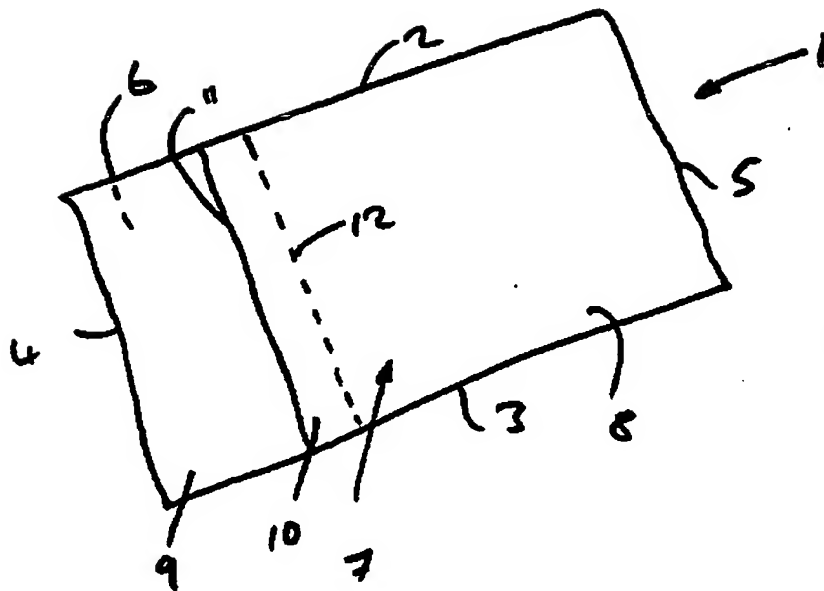


Fig 1.

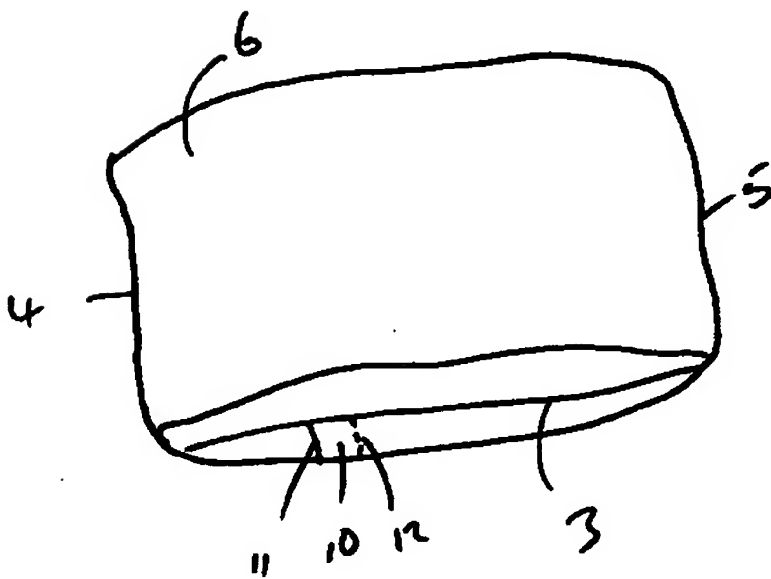


Fig 2.

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PATENTS ACT 1977

TITLE OF INVENTION

Improvements in or relating to pillows

The present invention relates to a pillowcase and, more particularly, relates to a pillowcase intended to minimise the damage caused to one's hairstyle when asleep.

It has been found that conventional pillows, when used to support one's head during sleep, are liable to cause substantial damage to one's hairstyle, due to hair becoming caught or snagged on the surface of the pillowcase.

An object of the present invention is to provide an improved pillowcase, and a method of preserving a hairstyle.

According to present invention, there is provided a method of preserving a hairstyle comprising the steps of providing a pillowcase having at least one surface thereof provided with a material having a low coefficient of friction and laundering said pillowcase with an anti-static agent.

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a pillowcase having at least one surface thereof provided with a material having a low coefficient friction.

According to yet another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a sheet of material having a low coefficient of friction including means to secure releasably said sheet to a pillow.

In order that the invention may be more readily understood and so that further features thereof may be appreciated, an embodiment for the invention will be described by a way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view from below of a pillowcase in accordance with the present invention; and

Figure 2 is a perspective view from above of a pillow provided with a pillowcase in accordance with the present invention.

Referring initially to Figure 1, there is provided a pillowcase 1 of generally rectangular form having a pair of substantially parallel edges 2, 3 and a further a pair of substantially parallel edges 4,5.

The pillowcase comprises an upper surface 6 and a lower surface 7. Upper surface 6 comprises a single piece of fabric, whilst lower surface 7 comprises two pieces of fabric; a large piece 8 and a smaller piece 9. Fabric piece 8 overlaps fabric piece 9, thus providing an overlapped region 10.

Lower fabric piece 8 is secured to upper fabric piece 6 along the entire length of edge 5 and a substantial length of edges 2 and 3. This securement is typically made by way of stitching. Edge 11 of fabric piece 8 is not secured to fabric piece 6.

Fabric piece 9 is similarly secured to fabric piece 6, along the entire length of edge 4 and part of the length of edges 2 and 3. Again, this securement is typically made

by way of stitching, whilst edge 12 of fabric piece 9 is not secured to fabric piece 6.

Edge 11 of fabric piece 8 defines an aperture between fabric piece 8 and fabric pieces 6 and 9, through which a pillow may be inserted into the pillowcase. Edge 12 defines an aperture between fabric piece 9 and fabric piece 6, which is adapted to receive one end of said pillow. In this way, due to the overlapping region 10, the surface of the pillow is covered when fully inserted into the pillowcase.

In order to reduce the potential of the pillowcase to damage one's hair during sleep, the upper surface 6 of the pillowcase is made from a fabric having a low coefficient of friction. Such a fabric may be, for example, satin or synthetic-satin. In an alternative embodiment, the entire pillowcase is made from such a low friction fabric, such that at least a portion of both the upper and lower surfaces of said pillowcase have low coefficient of friction surfaces.

In order to prevent further damage to one's hairstyle, it is also proposed to launder, both before and after use, pillowcases in accordance with the present invention with an anti-static agent, in order to reduce the build up of static which is often present with fabrics such as synthetic-satin.

It is to be appreciated that whilst the invention has been described with reference to one specific embodiment, various modifications could be effected without departing from the scope of the invention. For example, instead of manufacturing an entire pillowcase from low friction fabric, it is also possible to adapt a

conventional pillowcase by securing to one surface thereof a sheet of low friction fabric. For instance, such securement may be by way of releasable press studs, in which case the low-friction material may be removed from the remainder of the pillowcase to facilitate easy anti-static laundering.

CLAIMS

1. A method of preserving a hairstyle comprising the steps of providing a pillowcase having at least one surface thereof provided with a material having a low coefficient of friction, and laundering said pillowcase with an anti-static agent.
2. A pillowcase having at least one surface thereof provided with a material having a low coefficient of friction.
3. A pillowcase according to claim 2, wherein said at least one surface is provided with releasable securing means to secure releasably said low-friction to said pillowcase.
4. A sheet of material having a low coefficient of friction including means to secure releasably said sheet to a pillow.
5. Any novel feature or combination of features disclosed herein.



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Claims searched: 1

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Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK CI (Ed.P): A4M, D1P (PDF, PDX)

Int CI (Ed.6): A47G 9/00

Other: Online: WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
Y	GB 1053388 (COLGATE-PALMOLIVE), see esp. page 11, lines 1-4	1
Y	US 4706314 (GRANT), see eg. claim 1 and col.1, lines 44-49	1
A	US 4662014 (GRANT), see eg. claim 1 and col.1, lines 31-35	1

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.